

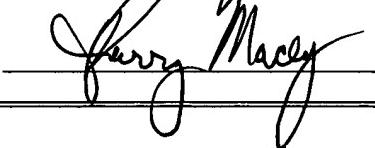
JAN 21 2003

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. CSI-2012

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Harry Macey

In re Application of:

Nguyen, et al.

Serial No.: 09/686,729

Filing Date: October 10, 2000

Title: MINIMALLY INVASIVE  
ANNULOPLASTY PROCEDURE AND  
APPARATUS

Examiner: A. Hoey

Group Art Unit: 3731

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action dated July 12, 2002 for which a three month extension is being filed herewith to extend the period for response from October 12, 2002 to January 13, 2003 (January 12, 2003 was a Sunday).

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 remain pending in this application. Applicants submit that these claims are allowable and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action of July 12, 2002.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Adams (US